

DIRECT STRATEGIES: WRITING

STRATEGY GROUP: Metecognitive

STRATEGY SET: Creating your learning

STRATEGY: Paying attention

This strategy involves two modes, directed attention and selective attention. Directed attention means deciding generally to pay attention to the task and avoid irrelevant distractors. In contrast, selective attention involves deciding in advance to notice particular detail. Writing in the new language, like in the native language, requires directed attention.

<p>For instance, Sangeeta determines she will concentrate on writing a letter in her new language, Chinese, blocking out noise and interruptions until she is finished. For writing, selective attention may mean deciding in advance which aspects of the writing to focus on at any given time, like structure, content, tone, sentence construction, vocabulary, punctuation, or audience needs. Especially for beginners, it is hard to pay attention to all of these elements at once.</p>
